How PHIN Supports Early Detection

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Looking beyond Surveillance Systems to Strengthen Surveillance Functions

8-City Enhanced Surveillance Project

- Charge:
  - Support/strengthen surveillance capacity for early detection of an infectious disease terrorist event in major U.S. cities

- Timeframe: 60 days

8-City Enhanced Surveillance Project

- Strengthen routine notifiable disease surveillance

- Targeted high-risk scenarios
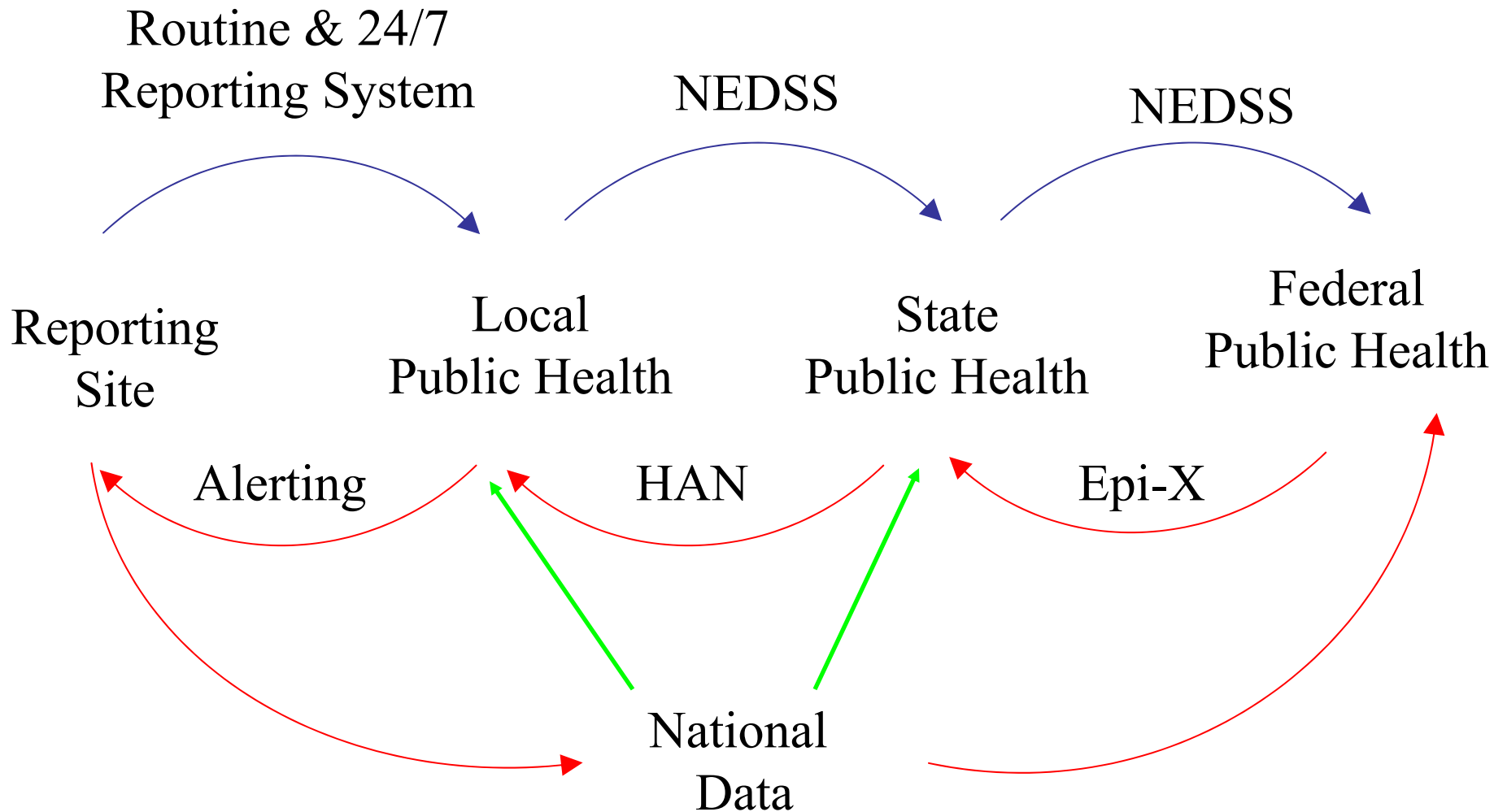
- Explore novel data for early detection

Hopkins Principles

1. Have clear objectives for your surveillance system. Design it to meet those objectives.
2. Collect only the data needed to meet those objectives. More is wasteful, and it rapidly erodes cooperation.
3. Show those providing the reports how the health department is using those reports to improve community health status.
4. Value and build on personal relationships as well as laws and rules.
5. Identify and remove barriers to rapid reporting of those events that are put under surveillance.
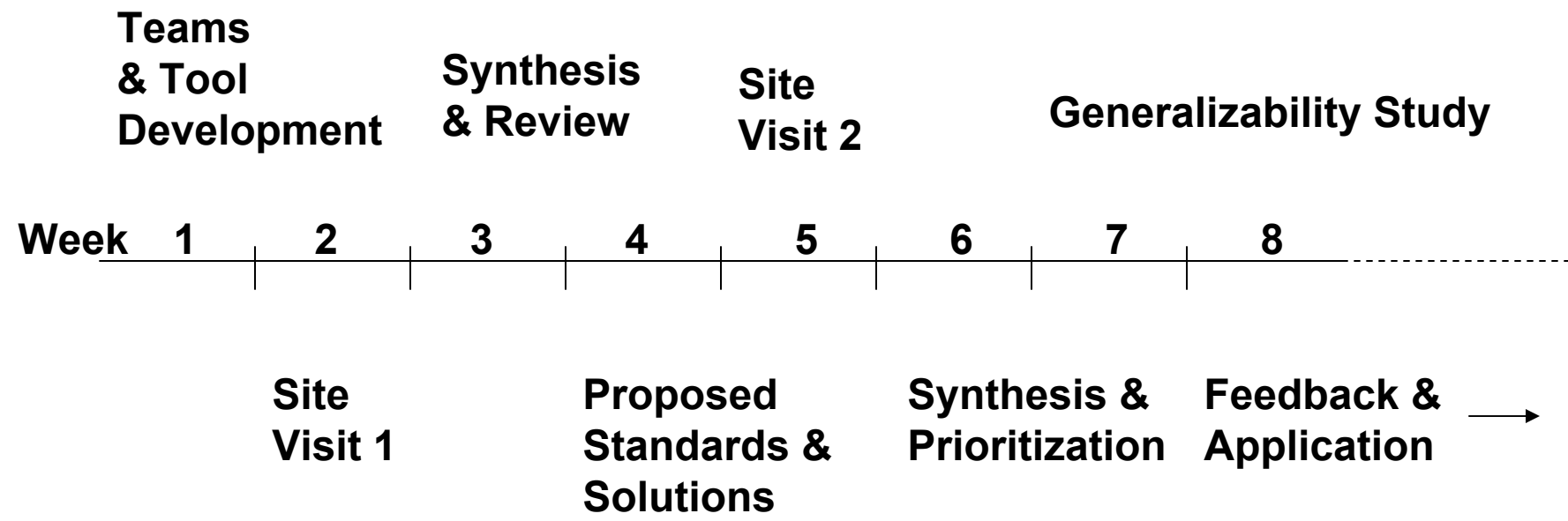
More Principles

6. Provide authoritative consultation to clinicians and laboratorians. Reporting will follow.

7. Build redundant systems for reporting to minimize damage from gaps in reporting

8. Routinely and frequently analyze and interpret the surveillance data by time, place, person

9. Develop the workflow and information systems so that all information received by all parts of a health department is reviewed and interpreted together

10. Be self-confident about the value of surveillance, disease control, and public health, and convey that confidence to data providers

Strengthening BT Surveillance

Time Line of Activities

Teams
& Tool
Development

Synthesis
& Review

Site
Visit 2

Generalizability Study

Week   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

Site
Visit 1

Proposed
Standards &
Solutions

Synthesis &
Prioritization

Feedback &
Application

Reporting infrastructure – relations with clinicians

- Clinicians and lab staff have to know what is reportable, by whom, how, when, why

- Clinician education on recognition of BT agents must include education on reporting – what, who, how, when, why

- Reporting is enhanced when local/ state HDs are seen as the source of definitive information on patient diagnosis and management of patient and contacts.

Reporting infrastructure – distribution of alerts

- Reporting is enhanced when local/state HDs can alert all practicing doctors and labs about conditions to look for and what to do when they see them

- This requires up-to-date directory and means to distribute alerts quickly 24/7 – enhanced local component of HAN

- Requires disciplined approach to message preparation, clearance and distribution

Reporting infrastructure – 24/7 accessibility

- Local/state HDs need to be accessible 24/7 for consultation AND reporting – closely linked functions

- Some after-hours on-call systems may put barriers in the way of clinician and lab callers, or may lose calls.

- Requires disciplined approach to receiving and triaging calls.

Technical Assistance Focus Areas

1. Alerting message template

2. Triage protocol for 24/7 reporting systems

3. Performance criteria for 24/7 reporting systems

4. National communications technology services contract

5. Commercial clinician directory resources

Next Steps

- Effect priority technical assistance

- Meet further technical assistance needs

- Conduct active technical assistance for surveillance

Messages for PHIN

- Surveillance is as much about relationships as it is about the data

- Communication is vital and technology should support it

- Be mindful to strengthen traditional relationships